



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Encouraging Students To Fill Out FAFSA Forms

According to the U.S. Department of Education (USED), Michigan is experiencing a 14 percent decrease in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) forms filed by high school seniors when compared to last year at the same time (see: <https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>), which mirrors a national trend.

This means that more high school seniors across Michigan could miss the opportunity to take advantage of federal grant, work-study, and loan dollars to continue their learning.

I am asking that you work to encourage your high school seniors to file the 2021-22 FAFSA form to help defray, and in some cases completely cover, the costs of their postsecondary education. The USED's Office of Federal Student Aid has made it easier than ever for students and families to access resources available on its digital platform at StudentAid.gov. These resources can assist your students in filing a FAFSA through a computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

One of the goals of Michigan's revised Strategic Education Plan is to increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential, as is Governor Gretchen Whitmer's 60 by 30 goal of having 60 percent of Michigan adults with a degree or credential by the year 2030. Filling out a FAFSA form will help all students have greater access to higher education, regardless of family background or income.

Thank you for your continued leadership during this difficult time.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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